



For Immediate Release

Contact Name: David White
Assistant to the City Manager
City Manager's Office
Phone: (707) 428-7398
E-mail: dwhite@fairfield.ca.gov

European Grapevine Moth Detected in Fairfield

California Department of Food & Agriculture hosts meeting to discuss eradication

Fairfield, California (Wednesday, September 8, 2010)—The California Department of Food & Agriculture is inviting Fairfield residents to a meeting to discuss the eradication of the European Grapevine Moth, *Lobesia botrana*. A serious new insect pest in California, this moth has been detected in neighborhoods on the west side of Fairfield.

The open house meeting will be held Thursday, September 9, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Fairfield Civic Center Library Becker-Balmer meeting room at 1150 Kentucky Street in downtown Fairfield.

The larvae of European Grapevine Moth feed on both the flowers and fruits of grapevines. In an effort to eradicate this pest, it is necessary to remove the flowers and grapes from the grapevines on properties in the affected area. This activity will be conducted by California Department of Food & Agriculture (CDFA) employees in areas where the moth has been detected. A map of the affected area has been placed on the City's website at www.fairfield.ca.gov.

The CDFA consulted with scientists who are experts in the biology of this pest. These experts determined that to effectively eradicate the European Grapevine Moth, the immature life stage of the insect must be attacked. Therefore, to prevent this moth from spreading, residents have two treatment options:

- Removal of the flowers and grapes from grapevines on your immediate property; or
- Limited ground treatment with an organic formulation of *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki* (*Btk*) to the grapevines. This insecticide is approved for use on organically grown food items. To eliminate the larvae, *Btk* must be applied multiple times. The application periods are based on temperature dependent life cycles of the moth and are timed to coincide with the emergence of the moth larvae.

These weekly pesticide applications will begin on September 13. Residents of affected properties will be individually notified prior to any application.

Please visit the CDFA website (www.cdfa.ca.gov/go/egvm) for more information on the European Grapevine Moth.

The cooperation of Fairfield residents with this program is needed to rid California of this harmful invading pest, while it is still possible.

If you cannot attend this important meeting and require additional information, contact the CDFA's toll-free **PEST HOTLINE at (800) 491-1899**.

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